

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 005028
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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 /034 R

DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/BP:TASCHLENKER:VJW
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO AMCONSUL EDINBURGH
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 005028

USOECN, USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UK, CA

SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: FTC INVESTIGATION OF SEAGRAM ACQUI-
SITION OF GLENLIVET DISTILLERS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE FEDERAL TRADE
COMMISSION (FTC) THAT IT QUOTE: IS CONDUCTING A PRELIMINARY
INQUIRY INTO THE CONTEMPLATED ACQUISITION OF GLENLIVET
DISTILLERS, LTD., OF EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, BY JOSEPH E.
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SEAGRAM & SON, INC., AN INDIANA CORPORATION HEADQUARTERED
IN NEW YORK CITY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ACQUIRING U.S.
COMPANY IS A SUBSIDIARY OF A CANADIAN COMPANY, THE SEAGRAM
COMPANY, LTD. THE STAFF AT THIS TIME IS UNCERTAIN AS TO
WHERE THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE CANADIAN PARENT IS LOCATED.

2. QUOTE: THIS PRELIMINARY INQUIRY IS A ROUTINE ONE.

ACQUISITIONS OF THIS SIZE ARE CUSTOMARILY INVESTIGATED ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS EITHER BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION OR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT CONTEMPLATE THE USE OF COMPULSORY PROCESS. THE INSTITUTION OF A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION THAT WRONGDOING HAS OCCURRED, ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. UNQUOTE.

3. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY HOST GOVERNMENTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION UNDER THE 1967 OECD RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES ACTIONS AND RELATE ANY COMMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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